

A Morgan professor's reflections

A summer working for the CIA

AMERICANS, by nature, are very patriotic; however, they seem to take the national security of United States for granted. Why is this so? Have we become a satisfied and complacent people who have no fears of foreign invaders? Should this really be taken for granted?

For most of their history Americans have enjoyed a high standard of living, excellent career opportunities, and democracy. This quality of life can only be maintained when the United

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States maximizes its own national security effort.

Remember when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941? It was a total shock to most Americans and government officials. After that lesson, many people do not realize the major contributions since made by that invisible branch of the government, the Central Intelligence Agency, toward protecting the quality of life of most Americans.

The CIA must gather selective information, better known as intelligence. In other words, intelligence is information that is gathered, analyzed, evaluated, and submitted to policy decision-makers involved in maintaining the security of the country.

The CIA is the major government organization responsible for gathering of intelligence. The agency, however, does not set policy; though the formulation of policy may be based upon intelligence provided by the CIA, along with other information.

It is the responsibility of many Americans to protect the security of the United States. Participating in this task provides an opportunity to serve the country and, at the same time, have an exciting career. Specifically, no school or college teaches intelligence as a skill. The requirements, in addition to substantive skills, are dedication and loyalty to the United States. A career in intelligence is unusually rewarding.

A position with the CIA offers many occupational directions — there are opportunities for accountants, biographic analysts, agricultural specialists, cartographers, clerk-typists, communication

specialists, couriers, computer specialists, economists, geographers, engineers, electronic technicians, librarians, logistics experts, mathematicians, military analysts, photo interpreters, political analysts, physical scientists, physicians, radio operators, security officers, stenographics, training officers, and weapon analysts.

Undoubtedly few public or private organizations offer such a varied career path as does the CIA. For those persons who can pass its rigorous employment and security requirements, the CIA has a professional intelligence career path suitable for almost any applicant.

The CIA is an elite, well-organized, competent, professional organization. I believe Americans should be proud of its total commitment to protecting this country. The quality of life enjoyed by most Americans would be impossible if it were not for such an organization.

I have recently participated in the 1983 CIA Summer Fellowship Program in the office of finance. The agency, for the past four summers (1980-1983), has successfully sponsored a fellowship program which places professors of predominantly black colleges in the CIA during the summer months.

The basic objective of the summer program is to improve the fellowship participant's expertise, enabling him to prepare students for the challenges of corporate and government worlds.

I feel the summer experience with the CIA has been most rewarding. This tour of duty has given me increased respect for the agency and the highest respect for its administrators. It was a great opportunity to work with the best.

Gerald Turner is assistant professor of business administration at Morgan State University. The agency reports that the above "has been reviewed by the CIA to assist the author in eliminating classified information; however, that review neither constitutes CIA authentication of factual material nor implies CIA endorsement of the author's views."